

Remarks

Summary

Independent Claims 1, 5, 14, and 18 recite at least one feature not disclosed or suggested by the patent to Nagashima. Therefore, is the outstanding rejection of these claims over this patent still proper?

Status of the claims

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 14, and 18 are independent.

Requested action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Nagashima.

Response to rejection

This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a remanufacturing method of remanufacturing a process cartridge comprising (a) a step of preparing a used process cartridge which comprises a toner developing container, a cleaning container and pins for coupling the toner developing container

and the cleaning container at opposite longitudinal ends of the process cartridge. The toner developing container includes a toner accommodating portion, a toner supply opening, a developing roller and a developing blade, and the cleaning container includes an electrophotographic photosensitive drum. The process also comprises (b) a container separating step of separating the process cartridge into the toner developing container and the cleaning container by disengaging the pins from the process cartridge, (c) a developing roller dismounting step of dismounting the developing roller from the toner developing container separated by the container separating step, (d) a developing blade dismounting step of dismounting the developing blade from the toner developing container separated by the container separating step, (e) an elastic member mounting step of mounting an elastic member at a position spaced from the toner accommodating portion to a longitudinally inside portion of an end seal provided adjacent each of opposite longitudinal ends of the developing roller dismounted in the developing roller dismounting step or another developing roller, (f) a developing blade mounting step of mounting the developing blade dismounted in the developing blade dismounting step or another developing blade on the toner developing container separated in the container separating step or another toner developing container, (g) a developing roller mounting step of mounting the developing roller dismounted in developing roller dismounting step or another developing roller on the toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in the developing blade mounting step and separated in the container separating step or the another toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in the developing blade mounting step, (h) a toner refilling step of refilling the toner into the toner accommodating portion of the toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in the developing blade mounting

step and the developing roller mounted in the developing roller mounting step and being separated in the container separating step or a toner accommodating portion of the another toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in the developing blade mounting step and the developing roller mounted in the developing roller mounting step, and (I) a container coupling step of coupling the toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in the developing blade mounting step and the developing roller mounted in the developing roller mounting step and being separated in the container separating step or the another toner developing container having the developing blade mounted in the developing blade mounting step and the developing roller mounted in the developing roller mounting step with the cleaning container separated in the container separating step or another cleaning container by engaging the pins disengaged in the container separating step or other pins into them.

By this arrangement, and particularly by using step (e), a process cartridge can be remanufactured without mounting a sealing member to reseal a toner supply opening, thereby effectively preventing toner leakage without remounting the sealing member. This feature is discussed at page 38, line 13 through page 43, line 17 of the specification.

In contrast, the patent to Nagashima is not understood to disclose or suggest (e) an elastic member mounting step of mounting an elastic member at a position spaced from the toner accommodating portion to a longitudinally inside portion of an end seal provided adjacent each of opposite longitudinal ends of the developing roller dismounted in the developing roller dismounting step or another developing roller, as recited by Claim 1. Moreover, the Office Action fails to specify the portion of this patent showing this feature, thereby failing to provide convincing evidence of the disclosure of this feature in this patent. For these reasons,

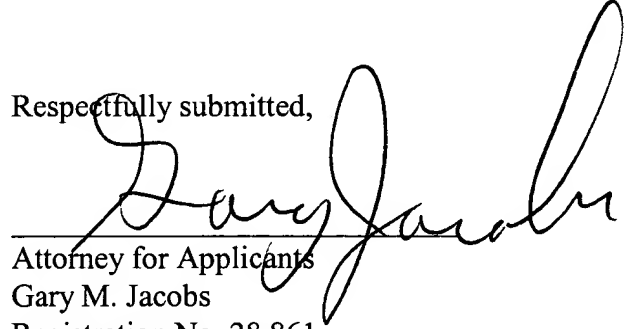
independent Claim 1 is allowable over the Nagashima patent. And because independent Claims 5, 14, and 18 also recite the same feature, they are allowable over this patent for the same reasons.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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